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Delaware Sports Betting Could Be in Place by the Fall

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(Photo: MGN)

DOVER, Del. - Now that sports betting has been approved by Delaware lawmakers, there are still a few hurdles it needs to overcome before residents can go place a bet on their favorite team.

The NFL has said it may consider legal action against the state of Delaware. They said sports betting sets a bad example.

On Wednesday, the NFL released a statement saying, "We expect that everyone involved in the administration of sports leagues, professional and college, will review today's action and evaluate its impact as other decisions are made by Delaware officials and the Delaware Supreme Court."

The NFL has asked Delaware's Supreme Court to block the sports betting plan. But, that is not stopping local casinos from getting ready for the new form of gambling that could be up and running by the fall.

"We can make that happen even if we have to put it in a temporary location in our simulcast on the third floor," said Ed Sutor, CEO of Dover Downs Hotel and Casino.

With the state taking more of the casinos profits, Sutor said sports betting will likely take place in the racing simulcast room before being moved to an empty restaurant on the casino floor. Sutor said he had planned on building a massive \$50 million facility for sports betting, but the casino does not have the money.

"We have plans for a \$50 million Las Vegas style sports bar, but that and the garage are indefinitely on hold," he said.

Table games will also now be legal, and in Dover there are plans for 45 tables for roulette, black jack and craps. Casinos said they could be on the floors by the end of the year if everything goes as planned.

Casinos say table games may bring 750 jobs to Delaware. Gov. Jack Markell will sign the bill Thursday morning.



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